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Message Text

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42
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 EUR-25 SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 SY-10 OPR-02 IO-12 /159 W
---------- 038974
R 261407 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9982
INFO USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0536

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT LY
SUBJECT: MORE ON THE POPULAR REVOLUTION

REF: TRIPOLI 0522 AND PREVIOUS

1. EMBASSY TRANSLATOR REPORTS FROM UNIDENTIFIED FRIENDS AND INFORMANT THAT SEVERAL PROMINENT LIBYANS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY PEOPLE' S REVOLUTION. DR. ALI ATTIGA, DIRECTOR OF THE LIBYAN INSURANCE COMPANY, HAS BEEN TOLD BY A PEOPLE' S COMMITTEE TO STAY HOME. HE IS DOING SO FOLLOWING ONE ATTEMPT TO ENTER HIS OFFICE WHEN HE WAS ROUGHED UP BY A COMMITTEE. LAWYER AKHRAM KHAYAL IS REPORTEDLY JAILED FOR HIS GENERAL OPPOSITION TO MERGER PLANS. DIRECTOR OF THE TRIPOLI GENERAL HOSPITAL, DR. DAJANI, WAS WARNED BY THE LOCAL COMMITTEE THERE TO STAY AWAY FROM THE HOSPITAL SINCE THEY NO LONGER WANT HIM AS THEIR DIRECTOR GENERAL. AN EMPLOYEE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, KHALID ZUGHBI, HAS BEEN IMPRISONED.

2. WHILE THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS UNCONFIRMED, IT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SORT OF STORIES, SOME TRUE
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AND SOME FALSE, WHICH ARE CIRCULATING IN TRIPOLI. THE THREAD THROUGH IT ALL, HOWEVER, IS THAT ARRESTS ARE OCCURRING AND LIBYAN POPULACE IS UNEASY.

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3. IN ADDITION WE HAVE REPORTS FROM AMERICAN PROFESSORS AT UNIVERSITY OF LIBYA, TRIPOLI CAMPUS, THAT CONSIDERABLE COMMOTION HAS OCCURRED THERE. VICE DEAN OF EDUCATION, AL- HAJAJI, SAID TO BE " ARRESTED". DEAN OF AGRICULTURE WAS DETAINED FEW HOURS FOR QUESTIONING, THEN MADE POINT OF TOURING HIS FACULTY' S CAMPUS TO SHOW HE WAS STILL IN BUSINESS. FACULTY OF SCIENCE WAS DISTURBED AT LEAST TWO DAYS BY SPIRITED DISPUTES AMONG STUDENTS, MANY OF WHOM CARRYING BULLHORNS. FIGHTS OCCURRED, REPORTEDLY, AND DEAN HIMSELF GOT BLOODIED SEPARATING ANTAGONISTS.

4. OUR ONLY REPORT FROM BENGHAZI SO FAR IS FROM VISITING SWEDISH AMB TO TUNIS WHO HOPING PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS HERE. HE SAID HE HEARD ON TWO- DAY VISIT TO BENGHAZI THIS WEEK THAT 40 PERSONS HAD BEEN ARRESTED THERE.

5. BELIEVE IT PROBABLY TRUE, AS REPORTED BY BBC, THAT COMMITTEES BEING ORGANIZED IN EVERY TOWN AND HAMLET. SOME HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED ON RADIO, BUT IN ADDITION WE HAVE SEEN GROUPS OF BARACANNED MEN TROOPING TO SCHOOLS IN HINTERLAND, APPARENTLY TO VOTE FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER-SHIP.

6. COMMENT: WHILE ACOUNT OF COMMITTEE AND OTHER " REVOLUTIONARY" ACTIVITY IMPRESSIVE, WE HAVE NO FURTHER REPORTS OF UNREASONABLE DEMANDS ON OIL COMPANIES, FOR EXAMPLE. SEE TRIPOLI 0534. ALSO NOTE FBIS M241936 RE ANNOUNCEMENT CERTAIN FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON FORMATION COMMITTEES. LIFE IN TRIPOLI APPEARS ON SURFACE TO BE NORMAL AS WEEKEND STARTS.
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